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IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of authorising an additional computer program
module for use with a core computer program, said core computer program being
installed, said method comprising the steps of:
        reading module signature data associated with said additional computer program
module;
        reading core signature data and other signature data associated with said core
computer program;
        wherein said other signature data is user signature data;
        comparing said module signature data with said core signature data and said user
signature data; and
        refusing authorisation of said additional computer program module for use with
·said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of
said core signature data and said user signature data;
        wherein thesaid user signature data allows a particular user to authorize thesaid
additional computer program module for use with thesaid installed core computer
program;
        wherein said user signature data is utilized to authorize said additional computer
program module which is from a third party for use with said core computer program.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional
computer program module is refused authorisation for use with said core computer
program unless said module signature data matches both of said core signature data and
said user signature data.

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4.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said module signature data, said core signature data and said user signature data include public key infrastructure signatures.

5.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user signature data is associated with said core computer program upon installation of said core computer program.

6.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said user signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

7.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user signature data is embedded within said core computer program by applying a user specific patch to said core computer program.

8.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said core signature data is associated with said core computer program upon generation of said core computer program.

9.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said core signature data is embedded within said core computer program.

10.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said core computer program is an anti-virus computer program.

11.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said anti-virus computer program operates with at least one updateable anti-virus computer program module.

12.   (Cancelled)

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13.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module provides functionality independent of that of said core computer program.

14.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said additional computer program module does not relate to anti-virus protection.

15.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to patch an installed computer program.

16.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said additional computer program module is operable to install another computer program.

17.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

   writing said additional computer program module;

   receiving new user information from a new user of said additional computer program module;

   generating user signature data specific to said new user in dependence upon said new user information;

   associating said user signature data with said additional computer program module; and

   providing said additional computer program module with associated user signature data to said new user.

18.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said step of generating uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

19.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said step of associating uses a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program.

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20.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

writing said additional computer program module;

generating signature data specific to said additional computer program module in dependence upon said additional computer program module using a tool produced by a provider of said core computer program;

associating said signature data with said additional computer program module; and

providing said additional computer program module with associated signature data to said new user.

21.   (Original) A method of generating an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program when authorised in accordance with the method of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

writing said additional computer program module;

providing said additional computer program module to a new user;

said new user associating user signature data with said additional computer program module;

providing said additional computer program module and associated user signature data to a provider of said core computer program;

said provider of said core computer program associating core signature data with said additional computer program module and associated user signature data;

providing said additional computer program module and associated user signature data and core signature data to said new user.

22-64. (Cancelled)

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65.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~A method of authorising
an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program, said core
computer program being installed, said method comprising the steps of:
        reading module signature data associated with said additional computer program
module;
        reading core signature data and other signature data associated with said core
computer program;
        wherein said other signature data is user signature data;
        comparing said module signature data with said core signature data and said user
signature data; and
        refusing authorisation of said additional computer program module for use with
said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of
said core signature data and said user signature data;
        wherein said user signature data allows a particular user to authorize said
additional computer program module for use with said installed core computer program;
        wherein said user signature data is utilized to authorize said additional computer
program module which is generated by said user for use with said core computer
program.

66.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~A method of authorising
an additional computer program module for use with a core computer program, said core
computer program being installed, said method comprising the steps of:
        reading module signature data associated with said additional computer program
module;
        reading core signature data and other signature data associated with said core
computer program;
        wherein said other signature data is user signature data;
        comparing said module signature data with said core signature data and said user
signature data; and

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refusing authorisation of said additional computer program module for use with
said core computer program unless said module signature data matches at least one of
said core signature data and said user signature data;

wherein said user signature data allows a particular user to authorize said
additional computer program module for use with said installed core computer program;

wherein said core computer program keeps a list of module providers which have
been previously authorized by said user signature data, such that said user signature data
becomes associated with additional computer program modules provided by module
providers indicated on said list.